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UMASS BOSTON NEWS & VIEWS

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JANUARY 27, 1989

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Gov. Dukakis' election decision puts UMB in national eye

Perhaps the year's biggest political story brought widespread national and local media attention to UMass/Boston when Governor Michael Dukakis announced he would not run for re-election at a press conference held on the Harbor Campus.

Prior to the conference, Gov. Dukakis met privately with UMB Chancellor Sherry H. Penney, who accompanied him in his walk from the Quinn Administration Building to the media center's new telecommunications theatre in the Healey Library.

Chancellor Penney also met with Gov. Dukakis' cabinet members who held a one-day retreat in her conference room.

The three major television networks—NBC, CBS, and ABC—the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and the wire services all mentioned UMass/Boston in their Gov. Dukakis stories. The story received Page One coverage in the Boston and suburban newspapers and provided unusual publicity for the University, now in its 25th year.

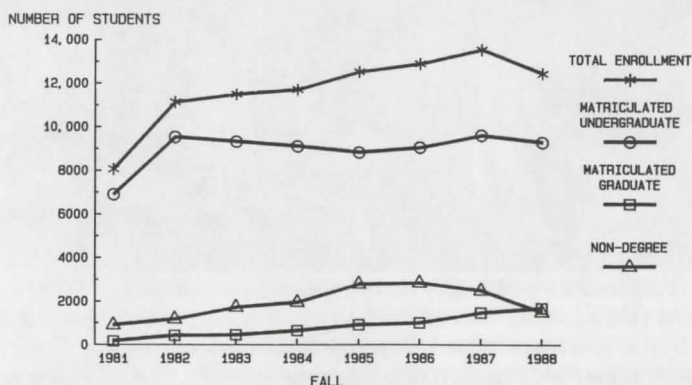


Above: Gov. Michael Dukakis made his surprise announcement at UMass/Boston's Harbor Campus that he would not seek re-election in 1990.



Right: UMass/Boston Chancellor Sherry H. Penney huddled with Gov. Michael S. Dukakis before his surprise announcement at UMB.

Enrollment Trends at UMass/Boston, 1981 - 1988



UMB study sheds light on student enrollment shifts

by Dr. Jennifer B. Presley

UMass/Boston had 12,451 students enrolled in state-supported courses last fall (1988), an 8.2% decrease from 1987, or 1,123 fewer students. The drop reflects both our long-range enrollment plans and an accelerated reduction due to the FY89 budget situation. The impact, however, was not uniform.

The largest drop was in the

number of non-degree seeking students enrolled because these students can enroll only on a space available basis, and there were fewer spaces available this Fall. There were 870 fewer non-degree seeking students enrolled in undergraduate classes, with an additional drop of 125 enrollees in graduate courses.

• continued on page 4

UMB Nursing Program cited for work with Malden elderly

City of Malden and State Department of Elder Affairs officials recently gave thanks to several UMass/Boston administrators and nursing students for their dedication and health care expertise in working with elderly residents of that city.

Mayor James S. Conway praised UMass/Boston for its role in the Project Nursing Outreach program, which since 1980 has matched UMB nursing students with needy elderly residents for the benefit of both.

The mayor presented eight participating students from the Fall 1988 semester with a rose and a certificate of appreciation. He also hailed the work of program overseer Dr. Shulamit Wurmfield, a UMB nursing professor and member of the Malden Council on Aging, which operates the Senior Center.

"You just can't imagine the great service you provide," Conway told UMB nurses and admin-

istrators during a farewell brunch at the Senior Center in Malden. "The companionship that these future nurses give to our senior citizens is tremendous. We can never repay you."

Different students each semester participate in the program and are responsible for delivering myriad services and tracking the condition of elderly patients, many of whom would not otherwise receive care. Some students work eight-hour shifts in the Senior Center; others make home visits. Each student is responsible for monitoring 3-4 patients weekly.

"We have expanded the program into many types of activities over the past couple of years," says Shulamit.

A new blood pressure clinic this year served 683 people.

Neicei Degan is director of the Malden Council on Aging. Through the combined efforts of her and Dr. Frances Portnoy, who had been Interim Dean of UMB's



UMass/Boston nursing student Louise Azevedo accepts symbolic rose from Malden Mayor James S. Conway while Neicei Degan looks on at recent luncheon.

College of Nursing, the relationship between the University and the council was forged.

Shortly after they met in 1979, Degan and Portnoy recognized the mutual benefits of linking forces. The Department of Elder Affairs cleared the path by putting its seal of approval on the concept.

"We are very much indebted to UMass/Boston," Degan says. "We've made a tremendous difference in the lives of people who have been isolated and forgotten."

"Some lives have been lengthened and some have been saved."

Degan estimates that in nine years the Council has received the equivalent of \$1.5 million in in-kind services from UMB. The program's success has also strengthened the Council's bid to get money from the state, he said.

William Jackson, a leading De-

partment of Elder Affairs advocate, commented that efforts like those of UMass/Boston nursing students will help sustain elderly services despite pending cuts in the state budget.

"Because of your commitment to serve elderly people," Jackson said, "the future looks good."

The Malden program is one of the more celebrated public service initiatives begun by UMB's College of Nursing. For her part, Portnoy has won the Schweiker Award for Innovative Practices in Nursing, and in 1985, four students participating in the Malden program were selected runners-up in a national award recognizing contributions to the field. The project also serves as blueprint for a more recent and similar undertaking started at a senior center in Arlington.



UMB Nursing School Acting Dean Frances Portnoy, right, confers with Elizabeth Sheran of the Malden Senior Center.

New MBTA station opens

UMass/Boston commuters who use the MBTA received an early benefit when the new \$14 million JFK/UMass station (formerly Columbia) opened three months ahead of schedule.

Chancellor Sherry H. Penney was one of the local dignitaries on hand for the recent opening that makes a new stop available for passengers on inbound MBTA Red Line trains from Braintree.

For the first time since the Red Line extension to the South Shore opened in 1971, passengers using the Braintree branch from either direction can disembark at the new station.

The new station is of two-level brick and glass. It serves UMass/Boston, Boston College High School, the Kennedy Library, the Boston Globe and the Bayside Expo Center, among others.



Local dignitaries on hand for the opening of the revamped JFK/UMass MBTA station with Chancellor Sherry H. Penney, center, flanked on left by Richard Rouse, Clerk, Supreme Judicial Court, Suffolk County; State Senator Paul Harold (D-Quincy) and, on right, by MBTA General Manager James O'Leary and State Rep. James Brett (D-Dorchester).



UMass/Boston Chancellor Sherry H. Penney, center, poses with four of the five UMB recipients of awards for Distinguished Professional Public Service given by UMass President David C. Knapp at special event held at the John F. Kennedy Library. Left to right: Prof. James Jennings, former dean of the College of Public and Community Service (CPCS); Joseph S. Slavet, Director, Boston Urban Observatory; Chancellor Penney; Prof. Scott Bass, Director, Gerontology Institute, CPCS, and Dr. P. Edmund Beard, Director, John W. McCormack Institute. Also feted was Phyllis K. Freeman, Chair, Law Center. (See story below.)

Prof. Phyllis Freeman is credited with vaccination legislation passed by Congress

Federal social service initiatives slowed dramatically during the Ronald Reagan years, but the persistence of Phyllis K. Freeman, associate professor and Chair of the Law Center at UMass/Boston's College of Public and Community Service (CPCS), succeeded in producing one breakthrough.

Thanks to her initiative, a bill to create the National Vaccine Program in the US Department of Health and Human Services was enacted by the Congress and signed by the President in 1986. Prof. Freeman inspired the law and co-authored it; the legislation requires the administration to create a national policy to promote the development and distribution of vaccines throughout the world.

For this legislation and for her other efforts in the field of international health policy and disease prevention, Prof. Freeman was recently given a community serv-



Prof. Phyllis K. Freeman

ice award by University President David C. Knapp at the JFK Library. She was one of five UMB figures honored.

In a letter recommending Freeman for the award, Dr. D.A. Henderson of John Hopkins University comments:

"The legislative achievement was itself an incredible accom-

plishment but, as Professor Freeman rapidly became the best-informed person on vaccine development and production, she identified international problems in production and distribution of vaccines and, with her customary diligence, has set in motion a series of activities to establish vaccine production resources throughout the Americas."

Freeman says the wealth of recent technological advances in the study of disease prevention have yet to be fully implemented in underdeveloped nations.

"This will enable the United States to use its incredible science base to help the rest of the world," Freeman says. "It's now virtually possible to produce a vaccine against any disease."

Freeman says that because the vast majority of Americans are immunized against infectious diseases, disease prevention specialists in this country have shifted their focus to chronic ailments.

But across much of the globe, infectious diseases are virtually unchecked. Freeman's legislation is designed to implement effective disease control where it is needed most.

"The point is to bring vaccination processes together from A to Z," she says.

These processes include vaccination research, development, testing, licensure, distribution, and, finally, use. Monitoring results is also part of the package. Right now, Freeman believes, is too soon to rate the effectiveness of the program. "It's still somewhat in the early stages," she says.

Freeman's penchant for championing the cause of government policy-making, law reform, civil rights, and employment issues can be traced to her teenage years. As a 19-year old transfer student from Duke University, she served as a student planner for a new program dedicated to urban problems at the State University of New York at Old Westbury, where she earned a bachelor's degree.

Freeman was similarly in-

• continued on page 4

Study analyzes UMB enrollment shifts *continued from page 1*

The entering class of matriculated undergraduates, at 2,137, was 21% smaller than a year ago. Two hundred qualified students were turned away from CAS and CPCS because of admission caps, while in Nursing and Management enrollments fell below earlier planning targets, echoing national trends.

In addition, undergraduate admissions to the College of Education was severely restricted in anticipation of changes in the delivery of our teacher training program.

In contrast to these drops, however, the number of continuing undergraduate students actually increased by 232, an encouraging indication of improving retention rates. Graduate matriculated enrollment was up to 204 students.

In addition to the impact of the FY89 budget squeeze on Fall 1988 enrollments, we also see the continuation of some trends of recent years.

The demographic composition of the student body is quite stable. The proportion who are minority increased slightly from 16.2% in 1987 to 16.6% this year. Some improvement was seen at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, for degree-seeking and non-degree seeking students, and for new matriculants. This is encouraging in the face of the cutbacks that occurred this Fall.

The proportion of students who are women continues to increase,



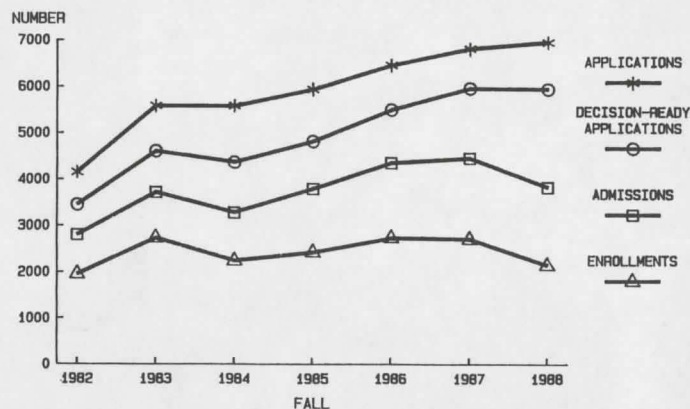
Dr. Jennifer B. Presley

reaching 57.8% this Fall. The mean age (28) and median age (25) of the student body has changed little from past years.

The number of matriculated graduate students has increased steadily each year, although the rate of growth this year slowed to 4%. Enrollment reached 1678, and with the addition of 374 non-degree seeking graduate students, passed the 2,000 mark for the first time (2052). Graduate enrollments now constitute 16% of headcount enrollment and 11% of instructional Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) enrollment.

The number of applications for undergraduate admission continues to increase (almost 7000 this year) although the number who

Undergraduate Admissions and New Student Enrollment at UMass/Boston, Fall, 1982 - 1988



are qualified for admission has not kept pace. In 1986, 79% of applicants who presented complete applications were qualified for admission, 75% in 1987 and 68% in 1988 (including 4% who were actually denied admission for lack of space). This trend holds for each of our Colleges.

The yield rate (the proportion of admitted applicants who actually enroll), at 56% this Fall, has dropped steadily since 1982 when 73% of admitted students enrolled. Again, this trend holds for each of our four Colleges.

Most new undergraduates reside in a band stretching from Arlington to Revere in the north to Braintree in the south. There are few new students from the northern and western suburbs outside Route 128, but significant numbers from the farther southern suburbs. This pattern is similar to that of recent years.

I believe that some of these trends are related to underlying demographic changes. The number of high school graduates has been dropping and the decline will become precipitous over the next five years. Those going to college, either immediately or after a break, have more choices than in the past. They are applying to more colleges, and are more likely to be admitted to their preferred institution than in the past. Competition for qualified students will only accelerate over the next several years.

In order to understand more

about why admitted applicants are not enrolling, the Office of Institutional Research and Planning (OIRP) and New Students Services sent postcards to all those who did not enroll for Fall 1988. The responses are only just now arriving, but a preliminary review suggests that three reasons may dominate—a desire for dormitories, lack of specific majors, and lack of financial resources to attend college. The results of this survey will help us to develop policies that foster access to a university education that meets the educational needs of potential students, and is within their financial reach.

(Dr. Jennifer B. Presley is Associate Vice Chancellor for Planning and Director of Institutional Research and Planning.)

Prof. Freeman authors legislation

• continued from page 3

involved in 1972 as a planner during the infancy of CPCS. She earned a law degree from the Northeastern University Law School in 1975. She took a leave-of-absence from the University from 1983 to 1986 while serving as Counsel to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the US House of Representative's Committee on Energy and Commerce. She also took a sabbatical as Scholar-in-Residence with the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine.

Among her more noteworthy

contributions, Freeman includes her efforts in 1982 to expand educational opportunities for women participating in the state's "Work and Training" program, and her work in organizing a legal counseling program for low-income families.

Freeman's explanation of her own commitment in assisting the needy is modest. She is more comfortable describing the "team" role. "All we're meant to do here," she says, "is help low-income residents of Boston communities thrive as best they can."

Elizabeth Boyd, better known as Betty, passed away in December after a four-month battle with cancer.

Betty joined the University of Massachusetts in 1973 as an interviewer with the Center for Survey Research.

In 1979, she joined the staff of the Dean's office at the College of Public and Community Service. She worked with the Assistant Dean of Administration as a secretary/administrative assistant.

Her professionalism and her gracious personality made Betty one of the most respected and loved employees.